



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">LAILATUL QADAR: THE BEST GIFT 16 June 2017AD / 21 Ramadan 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، مُحَمَّدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُرْشِدًا.</p>
3	<p>أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
4	<p>اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ مُبْرَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ ﴿٣﴾ فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Towards the end of Ramadhan, let us make the effort to increase the level of our conviction, by performing all the commands of Allah SWT and by staying away from all that He has prohibited us from doing. May this Ramadhan refine the conviction that we have within us.</p>
8	<p>As guidance to navigate the end of Ramadhan, let us ponder upon the content of today's sermon, entitled, '<i>Lailatul Qadar: The Best Gift</i>'.</p>
9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, <i>Lailatul Qadar</i> means a night of power. On such night, the blessings of Allah SWT comes in multitudes upon His servants who perform virtuous deeds.</p>



10	<p>The importance of <i>Lailatul Qadar</i> is explained in Surah Al-Qadr, verses 1 to 5:</p> <p>إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ نَزَّلَ الْمَلَكُتُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾</p>
11	<p>Which means: “We have indeed revealed this (Message) in the Night of Power: And what will explain to you what the night of power is? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. There in come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand: Peace!. This until the rise of morn!”</p>
12	<p>Through Surah Al-Qadr, a clear indication is given of the many extraordinary bounties within <i>Lailatul Qadar</i>, as deciphered by scholars:</p> <p>First: <i>Lailatul Qadar</i> is greater than a thousand months. This means all acts of worship performed during that night, such as <i>solat</i>, reading the Al-Quran, giving to charity, and so on, are greater than if such acts were performed for 1,000 months without <i>Lailatul Qadar</i></p>
13	<p>Therefore, those who enliven the night with acts of worship should gain the forgiveness of Allah SWT, as stated in a hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim, in which Abu Hurairah RA reported that Rasulullah SAW had said:</p> <p>مَنْ يَقُمْ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ</p> <p>Which means: “Whoever enlivens the night of <i>Lailatul Qadar</i> based on his faith and hopes for bounties from Allah, his past sins shall be forgiven.”</p>
14	<p>Second: Angels shall descend on that night, bringing blessings from Allah SWT.</p>



15	<p>As He had stated:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> نَزَّلَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ وَالرُّوحَ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ</p> <p>Which means: “There in come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand.”</p>
16	<p>On that night, countless Angels shall swiftly descend to earth until it is filled with their presence. It shall signal that the night is filled with blessings beyond compare.</p>
17	<p>Third: Syaitan shall not be able to proceed with his evil plans on the night of <i>Lailatul Qadar</i>.</p>
18	<p>Allah SWT declared:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ</p> <p>Which means: “Peace!. This until the rise of morn!”</p>
19	<p>Mujahid Rahimahullah stated that syaitan shall not be able to proceed with his evil plans or to prey upon mankind during that night. The night shall be protected from the charms of syaitan. According to Ibnu Zaid and Qotadah, <i>Lailatul Qadar</i> shall be filled with virtue and shall not have wickedness until the crack of dawn.</p>
20	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Rasulullah SAW implores for us to pursue the many benefits and advantages of that night. In fact, Rasullah SAW himself took advantage of the opportunity to increase the performance of acts of worship during the last 10 nights of Ramadhan and roused his family members from their slumber so that they may join him.</p>
21	<p>Imam Al-Bukhari Rahimahullah narrated that Ummul Mukminin Saidatina Aisyah R.ha had said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِذَا دَخَلَ الْعَشْرُ شَدَّ مِئْزَرَهُ وَأَحْيَا لَيْلَهُ وَأَيَّقَظَ أَهْلَهُ</p>
22	<p>Which means: “When it was the last 10 nights of Ramadhan, the Prophet SAW would tie his garment securely (to signify his earnest in performing acts</p>



	<i>of worship), enlivened the nights with acts of worship, and woke up his family members to join him.”</i>
23	It has been the practice and <i>sunnah</i> of Rasulullah SAW to perform <i>iktikaf</i> at the mosque during the last 10 nights of Ramadhan. <i>Iktikaf</i> means to be at the mosque for the sake of getting closer to Allah SWT and to give full attention to specific acts of worship.
24	Let us not be preoccupied with other things during the last days of Ramadan! Pursue <i>Lailatul Qadar</i> ! Make the effort to gain it by making a proper schedule to perform specific acts of worship, and perform them as best as we can. Remember, if we really want to be closer to Allah SWT and gain His acceptance, indeed Allah shall be closer to us.
25	Allah SWT had promised so in Surah al-Baqarah, verse 186: وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾
26	Which means: “When My servants ask you concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them): I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calls on Me: Let them also, with a will, listen to My call, and believe in Me: That they may walk in the right way.”
27	Appraise ourselves so that we may be able to increase the level of our faith and conviction. Perform acts of worship as if it shall be the last Ramadan for us. Let us not delay any more, but instead be steadfast until the end of our lives. Are we to leave aside all acts of worship during Ramadhan, because we are busy preparing for Aidilfitri? Ensure that our acts of worship during Ramadhan shall not be ordinary ones, but rather they should be extraordinary, for the sake of pursuing the best gift, namely <i>Lailatul Qadar</i> .
28	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, To conclude the sermon today, here are the takeaways for us to ponder upon:



	<p>First: Grab the bounties of <i>Lailatul Qadar</i> as a special offer from Allah SWT to His servants.</p> <p>Second: Multiply the performance of acts of worship during the final nights of Ramadan, and do not be preoccupied with preparations to receive Syawal.</p> <p>Third: Indeed Allah SWT is near to His servants and He hears what is in their supplications, if His servants make the effort to gain His acceptance.</p>
29	<p>Ponder upon the words of Allah SWT in Surah An-Nisa', verse 40:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ وَإِن تَكَ حَسَنَةً يُّضْعِفْهَا وَيُؤْتِ مِنْ لَدُنْهُ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p>
30	<p>Which means: “Allah is never unjust in the least degree: If there is any good (done), He doubles it, and gives from His own presence a great reward.”</p>
31	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>